

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 14, 2010, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Due to the absence of Chairperson Ning, Vice-Chairperson Robbins led the meeting.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Gilbert, Hays, Mayeda, and
Vice-Chairperson Robbins.

Absent: Commissioner Taniguchi and Chairperson Ning.

Also Present: Community Services Director Jones,
Senior Business Manager Minter,
Recreation Services Manager Brunette, and
Park Services Manager Carson.

MOTION: Commissioner Gilbert moved to grant Commissioners Ning and Taniguchi excused absences for the July 14, 2010 Commission meeting. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Park Services Manager Carson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Gilbert moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2010

MOTION: Commissioner Mayeda moved to approve the June 9, 2010 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Taniguchi and Chairperson Ning).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7A. CONTINUE DISCUSSION ON NAMING OPTIONS FOR THE LOMITA CORRIDOR PARK PROJECT

Senior Business Manager Minter reviewed the material of record and recommended that the Commission select a short list of names and explanation for recommendation to the City Council. He encouraged Commissioners to attend the August 10, 2010 meeting when City Council will consider this item. He informed them that on July 13, 2010 City Council awarded the construction contract, that the start date for construction is scheduled for August 2, 2010, and the community tile workshop is scheduled for August 14, 2010 at Sea Aire Golf Course.

June Lee, Vanderhill Road, stated that she went door to door in the area and found that residents did not feel there was much Spanish influence in the neighborhood and that most expressed support for naming the park in honor of the three fallen soldiers. She noted that a name with "Seaside" in it seemed to be acceptable, but pointed out that Seaside Ranchos is the name of a housing tract. She stated that it would be honorable to have the soldiers' stories told in tiles.

Vice-Chairperson Robbins requested that Commissioners state three names they would recommend.

Commissioner Hays recommended Esperanza Park, Las Brisas Park, and Seaside Ranchos Park.

Commissioner Mayeda recommended Seaside Ranchos Park, Seaside Park, and Las Brisas Park.

Commissioner Gilbert recommended Esperanza Park, Las Brisas Park, and Seaside Park.

Vice-Chairperson Robbins recommended Esperanza Park and Seaside Park.

MOTION: Commissioner Mayeda moved to forward the names Esperanza Park, Las Brisas Park, and Seaside Park for consideration for the Lomita Corridor Park Project. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Taniguchi and Chairperson Ning).

Senior Business Manager Minter shared an article from the May 31, 2010 edition of Sports Illustrated regarding Andy Ferrara, brother of Matthew Ferrara.

7B. CITY BUDGET UPDATE

Senior Business Manager Minter reported that City Council adopted the budget on June 15, 2010 and reviewed Community Services Department budget reductions, revenue increases, and proposed reductions/enhancements not accepted for Fiscal Year 2010-11 included in Attachment A. He noted that the Rose Parade Float was funded with one time money through 2012 and that City Council requested studies on the "General Fund Subsidy to the Parks and Recreation Enterprise Fund" as well as Non-Resident Fees. He stated that the budget for publishing and mailing of the Torrance Seasons was reduced by \$29,000.

In response to Commissioner Hays' inquiry, he advised that staff would be bringing forward a full report regarding the market rate study recently conducted.

At Commissioner Mayeda's request regarding elimination of the 4th of July Celebration, Senior Business Manager Minter explained that \$50,000 was set aside to cover fireworks and supplies but did not include overtime for Police, Fire, Transit, Public Works, and Parks Services. He noted that the actual cost of the Celebration is approximately \$250,000 and that staff has not been given direction by the City Manager to start soliciting sponsors for the event.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette added that donation opportunities were suggested in the brochures that were distributed at the 4th of July Celebration.

Vice-Chairperson Robbins stated that it is unfortunate to cancel or reduce anything, particularly the reduction of the Social Service Grants for people who are in need.

Responding to Commissioner Mayeda's suggestion to place Torrance Seasons on-line, staff explained that other cities have tried it and suffered negative consequences. The possibility of a targeted mailing and ways to market programs were briefly discussed.

7C. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Community Services Director Jones informed the Commission that Commissioner Taniguchi declined the nomination for Chairperson but is willing to be Vice-Chairperson.

MOTION: Commissioner Mayeda, seconded by Commissioner Hays, moved to elect Commissioner Gilbert for Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Commission; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Ning and Taniguchi).

MOTION: Commissioner Mayeda, seconded by Commissioner Gilbert, moved to elect Commissioner Taniguchi for Vice-Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Commission; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Ning and Taniguchi).

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB DONATION

Recreation Services Manager Brunette requested that the Commission accept a \$1,000 donation from the Dog Obedience Club and recommended that the donation be used toward the purchase of dog waste bags for the Wilson Park Pilot Program. He noted that this donation brings the grand total of donations from the Dog Obedience Club to date to \$33,585.

In response to Commissioner Hays' inquiry, Community Services Jones stated that staff plans to purchase additional bags for Wilson Park and to install kits at Walteria Park and Miramar Park. He added that Park Services staff has noticed a decrease in dog waste at Wilson Park.

Jane Hebson, Carol Drive, expressed her support for the program and suggested the use of biodegradable bags.

MOTION: Commissioner Gilbert moved to accept a \$1,000 donation from the Dog Obedience Club and to concur with staff recommendation that the donation be used toward the purchase of dog waste bags for Wilson Park; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Taniguchi and Chairperson Ning).

9. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

9A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Has not met.

9B. GRANTS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Gilbert reported that City Council approved the 2009 financial and narrative statements for non-profit organizations on July 13, 2010.

9C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Has not met.

9D. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Has not met.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

10A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for June 2010 was included in agenda packets. He informed Commissioners that Facility Reservation Specialist Patsy Beahan retired and that he will introduce Annie Thompson, the new Facility Reservation Specialist, at the August Commission meeting.

10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for June 2010 was included in agenda materials.

Community Service Director Jones provided an update on the mosquito situation at Madrona Marsh Preserve that reopened on July 9, 2010. He stated that staff is working with Vector Control to change maintenance practices, reduce the remaining water, and put together an action plan.

In response to Commissioner Gilbert's inquiry, Senior Business Manager Minter advised that the goals are currently at Las Canchas Tennis Facility performing effective weed abatement.

Commissioner Hays offered his observation that there are 12 dead eucalyptus trees at Wilson Park and Park Services Manager Carson responded that it is a normal process.

10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Manager Brunette noted that the Recreation Services Division Report for June 2010 was included in agenda packets.

He discussed the 4th of July Celebration at Wilson Park and the survey that was conducted to determine what attendees like about the event and their zip codes.

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #2

11A. Community Services Director Jones expressed appreciation to Commissioners Hays, Gilbert, and Chairperson Ning for accepting the July is Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation at the June 22, 2010 City Council meeting.

11B. Community Services Director Jones thanked Commissioner Hays for serving on the Youth Council selection committee on June 16-17, 2010.

Commissioner Hays stated that it was a rewarding experience and commended Senior Recreation Supervisor Debbie Reed for her efforts.

11C. Commissioner Gilbert announced "Pirates of Penzance" beginning August 13, 2010 at the Armstrong Theatre.

11D. Commissioner Mayeda stated that he enjoyed a visit to Hickory Park on July 11, 2010 and found it to be very busy.

11E. Staff and Commissioners expressed appreciation to each other for a successful Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Awards Banquet on July 12, 2010.

11E. Vice-Chairperson Robbins stated that the So Fresh market has returned to the City on Saturdays and will be contributing to Torrance Unified School District.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:22 p.m., Commissioner Hays moved to adjourn the meeting to August 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Vice-Chairperson Robbins so ordered.

Approved as Submitted August 11, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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